

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission

## § 71.59

(c) The Commission may approve exceptions to the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section if the package incorporates special design features that ensure that no single packaging error would permit leakage, and if appropriate measures are taken before each shipment to ensure that the containment system does not leak.

(d) A package used for the shipment of fissile material must be so designed and constructed and its contents so limited that under the tests specified in § 71.71 ("Normal conditions of transport")—

(1) The contents would be subcritical;

(2) The geometric form of the package contents would not be substantially altered;

(3) There would be no leakage of water into the containment system unless, in the evaluation of undamaged packages under § 71.59(a)(1), it has been assumed that moderation is present to such an extent as to cause maximum reactivity consistent with the chemical and physical form of the material; and

(4) There will be no substantial reduction in the effectiveness of the packaging, including:

(i) No more than 5 percent reduction in the total effective volume of the packaging on which nuclear safety is assessed;

(ii) No more than 5 percent reduction in the effective spacing between the fissile contents and the outer surface of the packaging; and

(iii) No occurrence of an aperture in the outer surface of the packaging large enough to permit the entry of a 10 cm (4 in) cube.

(e) A package used for the shipment of fissile material must be so designed and constructed and its contents so limited that under the tests specified in § 71.73 ("Hypothetical accident conditions"), the package would be subcritical. For this determination, it must be assumed that:

(1) The fissile material is in the most reactive credible configuration consistent with the damaged condition of the package and the chemical and physical form of the contents;

(2) Water moderation occurs to the most reactive credible extent consistent with the damaged condition of

the package and the chemical and physical form of the contents; and

(3) There is full reflection by water on all sides, as close as is consistent with the damaged condition of the package.

[60 FR 50264, Sept. 28, 1995; 61 FR 28724, June 6, 1996]

### § 71.57 [Reserved]

### § 71.59 Standards for arrays of fissile material packages.

(a) A fissile material package must be controlled by either the shipper or the carrier during transport to assure that an array of such packages remains subcritical. To enable this control, the designer of a fissile material package shall derive a number "N" based on all the following conditions being satisfied, assuming packages are stacked together in any arrangement and with close full reflection on all sides of the stack by water:

(1) Five times "N" undamaged packages with nothing between the packages would be subcritical;

(2) Two times "N" damaged packages, if each package were subjected to the tests specified in § 71.73 ("Hypothetical accident conditions") would be subcritical with optimum interspersed hydrogenous moderation; and

(3) The value of "N" cannot be less than 0.5.

(b) The transport index based on nuclear criticality control must be obtained by dividing the number 50 by the value of "N" derived using the procedures specified in paragraph (a) of this section. The value of the transport index for nuclear criticality control may be zero provided that an unlimited number of packages is subcritical such that the value of "N" is effectively equal to infinity under the procedures specified in paragraph (a) of this section. Any transport index greater than zero must be rounded up to the first decimal place.

(c) Where a fissile material package is assigned a nuclear criticality control transport index—

(1) Not in excess of 10, that package may be shipped by any carrier, and that carrier provides adequate criticality control by limiting the sum of

the transport indexes to 50 in a non-exclusive use vehicle, and to 100 in an exclusive use vehicle.

(2) In excess of 10, that package may only be shipped by exclusive use vehicle or other shipper controlled system specified by DOT for fissile material packages. The shipper provides adequate criticality control by limiting the sum of the transport indexes to 100 in an exclusive use vehicle.

**§71.61 Special requirement for irradiated nuclear fuel shipments.**

A package for irradiated nuclear fuel with activity greater than 37 PBq ( $10^6$  Ci) must be so designed that its undamaged containment system can withstand an external water pressure of 2 MPa (290 psi) for a period of not less than one hour without collapse, buckling, or inleakage of water.

**§71.63 Special requirements for plutonium shipments.**

(a) Plutonium in excess of 0.74 TBq (20 Ci) per package must be shipped as a solid.

(b) Plutonium in excess of 0.74 TBq (20 Ci) per package must be packaged in a separate inner container placed within outer packaging that meets the requirements of Subparts E and F of this part for packaging of material in normal form. If the entire package is subjected to the tests specified in §71.71 ("Normal conditions of transport"), the separate inner container must not release plutonium as demonstrated to a sensitivity of  $10^{-6}$  A<sub>2</sub>/h. If the entire package is subjected to the tests specified in §71.73 ("Hypothetical accident conditions"), the separate inner container must restrict the loss of plutonium to not more than A<sub>2</sub> in 1 week. Solid plutonium in the following forms is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph:

- (1) Reactor fuel elements;
- (2) Metal or metal alloy;
- (3) Vitrified high-level waste contained in a sealed canister designed to maintain waste containment during handling activities associated with transport. As one method of meeting these design requirements, the NRC will consider acceptable a canister which is designed in accordance with the American Society of Mechanical

Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, 1995 Edition (earlier editions may be used in lieu of the 1995 Edition). However, this canister need not be designed in accordance with the requirements of Section VIII, Parts UG-46, UG-115 through UG-120, UG-125 through UG-136, UW-60, UW-65, UHA-60, and UHA-65 and the canister's final closure weld need not be designed in accordance with the requirements of Section VIII, Parts UG-99 and UW-11. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51. Copies of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, 1995 Edition, may be purchased from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Service Center, 22 Law Drive, P.O. Box 2900, Fairfield, NJ 07007. It is also available for inspection at the NRC Library, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852-2738 or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC.; and

(4) Other plutonium bearing solids that the Commission determines should be exempt from the requirements of this section.

[63 FR 32605, June 15, 1998]

**§71.64 Special requirements for plutonium air shipments.**

(a) A package for the shipment of plutonium by air subject to §71.88(a)(4), in addition to satisfying the requirements of §§71.41 through 71.63, as applicable, must be designed, constructed, and prepared for shipment so that under the tests specified in—

(1) Section 71.74 ("Accident conditions for air transport of plutonium")—

(i) The containment vessel would not be ruptured in its post-tested condition, and the package must provide a sufficient degree of containment to restrict accumulated loss of plutonium contents to not more than an A<sub>2</sub> quantity in a period of 1 week;

(ii) The external radiation level would not exceed 10 mSv/h (1 rem/h) at a distance of 1 m (40 in) from the surface of the package in its post-tested condition in air; and

(iii) A single package and an array of packages are demonstrated to be subcritical in accordance with this part,